

## Holidays take on new meaning

### Soldiers say deployment changed their views on life

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Experiences in Iraq changed not only many Soldiers' views on life but give the holidays new meaning, said members of the 2nd Battalion "Iron Dukes," 37th Armor Regiment.

"There are no holidays when you are deployed to a combat zone," said Spc. Scott Snider of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-37th Armor. "You get so involved in your mission that you lose track of the date and time when you are downrange. Sometimes it seemed like I was there for one long day. One day dragged on to the next and you forget about holidays. I didn't even remember my birthday."

Snider deployed in April of last year with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Carson, Colo., and was able to go on block leave last December but had to return to Iraq before the holidays.

"I wasn't too happy and kind of depressed. I even missed the Christmas dinner. Downrange it's not a special day. You always have to be suspicious and you cannot take anything for granted regardless of what day it is," he said.

This year will be the second holiday season. Snider will not be with his loved ones. Only a few months after his unit redeployed to Fort Carson he received orders for Germany and arrived in Friedberg in November. "I am trying to get my wife Jamie here before the holidays.

Since I can't go home I'd really like to spend Christmas with her. It would make up for last year," he said.

"I am thinking about the deployment and the friends I've lost everyday. I don't think I'll get sentimental on Christmas, but I know for sure that May 1 is going to be a bad day for me. That's the day when I lost my best friend downrange. We were very close," Snider said.

"The deployment was an eye-opener. I was on the maturity level of a 19-year-old when I came to Iraq. Now, one month shy of my 21st birthday I am at the maturity level of



Photo by Alexandra Williams

**Spc. Scott Snider of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-37th Armor, looks at a photo of he and his wife Jamie. For Snider this could be the second holiday season in a row he cannot spend with his loved ones. During the deployment he has learned that Christmas is more than a gift exchange and that people should be grateful to be able to spend time with their family, he said during a recent interview.**

a 35-year-old. Sure you can see many of the things going on in the news, but that is really just the sugar-covered version. I wish others could be there for a day — it might make them realize what they have and what they take for granted. Most Iraqis have no food, hot water or a toilet. They have never heard of X-Box, they have no television or DVD players. That's something I tell my little cousin when he talks about all the things he wants for Christmas. I think most Soldiers who have served in Iraq have learned to appreciate those things everybody else takes for granted. The holidays are more than exchanging gifts, and people should be grateful to be able to spend time with their family," said Snider.

"To me Christmas was just another day at work. When I joined the Army I knew what was going to happen, and it's just one of those sacrifices I had to make for my country. Of course it's hard on your family, especially the children," said Staff Sgt. Juan Padilla, battalion re-

enlistment noncommissioned officer.

Last Christmas Padilla was among other Iron Duke Soldiers who guarded the United Nations Building that was attacked at 5 a.m. that day. In the afternoon he pulled guard at a gas station.

"I called my wife on my satellite phone. Our Family Readiness Group had sent gifts and coffee mugs. That reminded us of the holidays, of course, but downrange you have no time to think about it too much. You need to stay focused on the mission," he said.

Back in garrison for the holidays this time around he's trying to make up for the missed holidays. "I am like a kid in a candy store. My favorite part is decorating the tree with my two children," Padilla said. "I have a 5-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son. Before I left it used to be only my daughter and me doing the decorating, and this year is the first time he can help us. This and the fact of being with my wife and children makes it a special Christmas for me."

"Christmas Eve will always remind me of the late 1st Brigade's Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Cooke who was killed Dec. 24 of last year when his vehicle struck an explosive de-

vice," he said. "He was a great guy and NCO. Every Soldier knew him and everybody liked him."

"I will also think of the brave men and women currently serving in Iraq. I understand what they are going through, and my thoughts and prayers are with them," Padilla said.

Staff Sgt. Richard Lowe, a tank commander with Company B, 2-37th Armor, said the holidays were a time in which he often thought about his family while in Iraq. "It's natural that around any holiday thoughts of your family come to your mind. I was wondering what my family was doing, but I also had to stay focused on the mission," he said.

Lowe was among Soldiers who guarded the UN Building. "We were alerted at 5:30 a.m. Later on that day I called them and I felt guilty. This year I will try to make up for it," Lowe said.

"I try to hit the Christmas markets with my wife," Lowe said. "My son, my wife and I will do some traveling, possibly to Italy. Having spent last Christmas in Iraq makes special events like the holidays more special to me because I am still alive to enjoy them."

Lowe said he thinks about the men and women still serving in Iraq

all the time. "I know what it is like to be down there. I know what they are going through and I hope all of them will make it back safely. I am proud of all Soldiers who went to and still are in Iraq," he said.

The holidays in Germany will be a time for Lowe to reflect on experiences he made in the war-torn country. "My wife and I often talk about things that went on down there, and I am sure that on Christmas certain things will come up again and we'll talk about it," he said.

"We had to guard a gas station for a while and there was this little boy, maybe 6 or 7 years old. He always asked me for chocolate," Lowe said. "He didn't speak much English, but he asked for my name and he told me his. He always followed me around. I enjoyed his company. We didn't go back to the gas station for a while and when we

returned he wasn't there anymore. I often think about him and wonder if somebody takes care of him. I guess you can't help but think about such things around the holidays."

"I remember that I was depressed and worried last Christmas. I tried to call home but could not reach my family because they were gone for the holidays which I didn't know," said Spc. Marqus Lewis, a tanker with Company B, 2-37th Armor. "My mom has heart problems so I was concerned."

"This year I will buy as many gifts and do as many holiday things as I can. I will be home in Oakland, Calif., eating sweet potatoes and chitterlings and collard greens," he said.

The holidays will never be the same for him, he said, after experiencing Iraq at war. "One of our sergeants died in a gunfight in Baghdad. Once in a while I think about him, and I know I will think about him over the holidays."

"The deployment made me realize that you have to appreciate what you have. Being able to spend time with your family in a peaceful environment and time is a special gift, and it's a special time. I know not everybody has that," Lewis said.



## Army cooks have chance to shine

### Culinary masters pull out all the stops for holiday meals

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

There wasn't much time for culinary experimentation during the 15-month deployment to Iraq. Like other Soldiers, 1st Brigade cooks were busy facing danger head on, running convoys, distributing food to hungry Soldiers and trying to bring order to a chaotic world.

Now back at their home bases in Friedberg and Giessen they are eager to demonstrate their abilities to their fellow Soldiers. The first chance to show off their talents came with the Thanksgiving dinner and displays they prepared for dining facility patrons. An all-day competition for 1st Armored Division eateries honored the best of the best.

While Büdingen's 1-1st Cavalry facility and Baumholder's 2nd Brigade facility were chosen as the top dining facilities in the Thanksgiving competition, Giessen's consolidated dining facility took several indi-

vidual awards as well as best in 1st Brigade.

"We won first place in the 1st Brigade Thanksgiving competition, and three individual awards were given to Soldiers for their artwork. This is a really good result for such a small dining facility," said Sgt. 1st Class Nestor Sanchez, assistant dining facility manager.

The cooks welcomed the competition as a chance to show off their creativity, and dedicated their free time to create exceptional artwork to feature a traditional Thanksgiving display.

Staff Sgt. Kristina Cruikshank of Head-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Nestor Sanchez  
Contracted cook Frank Giebeck (left) and Spc. Calvin Silvagnoli of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery prepare chicken for lunch at the Giessen Consolidated Dining Facility.

quarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, part of the DFAC team for the past three years, helped with the adminis-

trative work as well as with setting up the projects.

"It was exciting, and I am happy for all of us. Finally we could work in our field. Down-range other missions kept us busy. There was no time to work on our cooking skills, not even to prepare a special Thanksgiving dinner," she said.

"Special projects are always a good learning experience and practice opportunity, and it showed the other Soldiers what we are made of," said Cruikshank.

Sgt. Diego Vega of Service Battery, 2-3rd Field Artillery, won a gold medal for best in show for his gingerbread village and Bible cake. "It was my first culinary experience, and my first time volunteering to participate in the competition. It was a different experience and I am glad I did it," said Vega, who added that he dedicated eight days to his artwork and got help from his wife.

"I had to work on it at home. It's impossible to do such a project here at the dining facility since there are too many other things to do," he said.

Perishable materials such as broccoli, cauliflower, pieces of chewing gum and

**See Cooks on page 18**

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Cooks .....

*Continued from page 17*

candy canes prevented Vega from keeping his work.

“More important is that patrons of the dining facility liked it. Working on the project was a great experience, and I am already thinking about what I can do for next year’s competition,” Vega said.

“The competition was our chance to shine,” said Spc. David Burdette of Service Battery, 2-3rd Field Artillery. “Downrange we talked about all the things we could do, but we did not have the main supplies. This year Pfc. Simon and I joined and created the ‘Home away from Home’ cake. We worked many hours in our free time to finish the project, and we had a lot of fun.”

Burdette and Simon received the bronze medal for their cake.

Among cooks eager to show off their culinary skills was Pvt. 2 Daniel Schorle of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-3rd Field Artillery. He won a bronze medal for his marzipan cornucopia.

“I just came out of basic training in August, so I tried my best, especially since I am new. I wanted to prove myself. I am very proud,” Schorle said.

“It was a lot of fun to see how the cooks enjoyed preparing the meal and how things gradually developed,” said Volker Heep, a civilian cook who served as a German army cook for eight years. “They were so eager and enthusiastic, so five of us civilian cooks decided to help them. Working through the night before Thanksgiving was most of the fun. It’s somehow touching to see how hard these Soldiers worked to make it a

special dinner for fellow Soldiers and their families. None of them actually had winning an award or gold medal in mind.”

“I am proud of my Soldiers. Of the 12 years I’ve served in the Army now and the day when we were notified that we were awarded the first prize was probably my proudest day,” said dining facility manager Sgt. 1st Class Michael Isaza of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion. “I was amazed to see how many cooks joined to do the display. They didn’t do it because we demanded it, but because of their kindness, they wanted to do something for the community.”

### Showed effort

“I know it was a challenge for them because they could not work on their cooking skills downrange. I think we won the competition because we showed effort,” Isaza said.

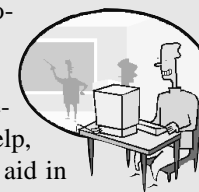
Operating the dining facility and improving culinary skills is the greatest challenge the cooks face. “Seventy percent of our cooks lack experience in their jobs,” said Sanchez. “They came straight out of the initial training to Iraq, and down there they just pushed chow down to the Soldiers. They had no time to get experience because they were so busy with doing patrols or participating in raids. Then after 15 months downrange they suddenly come to the DFAC. That is a challenge.

“If I can get one Soldier to tell my cooks that he or she enjoyed the meal that’s enough recognition for me,” Sanchez said. “On the other side I would appreciate if patrons tell me what’s wrong or what they don’t like. There’s a lot of room for improvement. Our goal is to go from crawling to walking and then running. There will be changes, but it takes time. I believe that in six months you’ll see us running.”

## Classes

### Employment readiness

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service employment readiness program provides assistance to community members seeking employment. Services include federal resume classes, interviewing skills help, computer assistance and tools to aid in the job search. Employment readiness services are offered every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Friedberg and every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Giessen. Federal resume classes will be held every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon in Giessen and every first Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon in Friedberg. Call ACS in Friedberg at mil 324-3465 or ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618.



### ESL class

The Friedberg Army Education Office offers two English as a Second Language classes in January. Dates of the classes are based on number of participants. Each class requires six students before a date can be established. The morning class will be from 8:30-11 a.m. and the evening class takes place from 6-8 p.m. Both classes will meet two days a week. The cost is \$50 and includes materials. Contact the Friedberg Education Office at mil 324-3119.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlight

### Free counseling

The Army One Source free counseling line is available 24 hours a day at civ (0800) 4648 1077. The toll-free service puts callers directly in touch with professional counselors.



### Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help with Wild West Night Feb. 5 in Friedberg. Individuals to help plan, set up and take down the jail and other featured events are needed. Call Jana Mansoor at mil 324-3700 or Christina Daily at Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3789 to volunteer.

### Child Find screening

Butzbach Elementary School hosts a Child Find screening Jan. 24 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all families in Giessen, Butzbach, Bad Nauheim and Friedberg. Parents with concerns about their preschoolers' (age 3-5) cognitive, social, emotional, physical or speech development are invited to attend. Call civ (06033)

74520 to arrange an appointment.

### IACS office relocates

The 284th Base Support Battalion Installation Access Control System Office is now located in Building 13 (near the truck gate). The IACS office registers community members into IACS and installation passes. Department of Defense ID cards and CAC registration is handled at the ID card section in Building 4.

### On-site registration

CLEOS hosts an on-site registration Feb. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Butzbach Child Development Center, Feb. 2 at the Bad Nauheim CDC and Feb. 3 at the Friedberg CDC. A special Parents Night Out is scheduled for Feb. 11 at the Butzbach CDC. For more information call CLEOS at civ (0641) 402-7028/8216.

### Mom-2-Mom meeting

A Mom-2-Mom volunteer meeting will be hosted Jan. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Giessen Army

Community Service. The training is designed for mothers who have successfully nursed a baby and would like to help new mothers get a good start. Donna Ellis, a registered nurse from the Lactation Consultant Pediatric Services of the Heidelberg Medical Center will teach. To register call Tammy Castro-Leduc at mil 343-1550 or civ (0641) 402-1550 or send an email to [tammy.hermosilla@us.army.mil](mailto:tammy.hermosilla@us.army.mil).

### Outdoor Rec ski trips

Giessen Outdoor Recreation features a ski trip to **Winterberg** Jan. 8. Cost is \$59. A ski trip to **Zermatt, Switzerland**, takes place Jan. 15-17. A ski trip to the **Broken Mountain** will be featured Jan. 22. Cost is \$59. An overnight ski trip to **Garmisch** is planned for Jan. 29-30. The cost is \$139 for adults, \$79 for children age 4-13 and \$49 for children up to age 3. For more information call mil 343-8202.

### Commissary hours

Bad Nauheim Commissary will be open Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 27 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

### Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date



Photo by Alexandra Williams

### Santa comes to Giessen

Santa Claus lends an ear to Sage Johnston's wishlist to find out what she wants for Christmas during the Giessen tree lighting ceremony Dec. 2. The tree lighting ceremonies in Giessen and Friedberg officially opened the holiday season in the 284th Base Support Battalion.

for all housing areas is Jan. 7 and includes collection of Christmas trees. Do not place bulk trash out-

side until the evening before the pickup. For more information call Monika Nelson at mil 343-7161.

## Crime rates increase slightly

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

The crime and accident rate in the 284th Base Support Battalion has risen slightly since the summer months, according to a 284th BSB Provost Marshal's Office review comparing this year and last year.

Auto accidents topped the list with a total of 111 reported compared to 89 last year.

Larceny of government property offenses dropped from 31 cases last year to eight cases this year. Forty assaults were reported during this period this year compared to 15 cases last year. There were five cases of aggravated assaults and two indecent assaults this year compared to no counts in the previous year. One case of rape was reported this year — a 100 percent increase over last year. Larceny of private property increased from 16 cases in 2003 to 21 reported cases this year.

Fifteen service members were

apprehended for driving under the influence of alcohol and 13 drug abuse cases were registered.

"The increase of accidents and drug and alcohol related crimes are not unusual after a deployment," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Brown of the 284th BSB PMO. "For many Soldiers drinking is a way to relieve their stress. Auto accidents are often caused by inexperience."

Besides keeping an eye out people who may be in trouble because of substance abuse, everyone should also watch out for people who may be suicidal around the holiday season, he said. Community members must play an active role in helping prevent crime or becoming a crime victim. Following are a few safety precautions recommended by the 284th BSB PMO.

• When you are working late call your spouse or a friend to let them know when you are leaving so they can estimate when you should arrive at home.

• Always park your car in a well-lit area.

• Go directly to your car with the keys in your hand. Avoid hav-

ing to search for them.

• Drive with your car locked.

• If you live in the barracks always keep your room locked — whether you are in it or away.

• If you drink alcohol — only drink around people you trust. Ninety-five percent of reported rapes involve drugs or alcohol.

• When you leave your housing or off-post apartment for several days or longer ask a neighbor to check your apartment or house once or twice a week while you are gone.

• While on vacation have someone empty your mailbox regularly.

• Don't discuss your travel plans in public places.

• Have a point of contact in your unit. If you have someone watching your house give the first sergeant his or her number to contact if needed.

For more information on crime safety call Luz Medeiros, the 284th BSB Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program coordinator, at mil 343-6500.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Community notes . . . Community notes

### Youth artists compete

Young Hanau artists have advanced to the next level of the Boys and Girls Clubs National Fine Art Exhibit program. Art judged outstanding at the regional level will advance to the national level competition. Work by the following Hanau artists has advanced to the regional level: Zachary Boneham, Vanessa Millard, Morris Jackson, Melody Children, Christine Depaloma, Christa Sperman and Guenter Nyanankpe. (Courtesy of *Leon Garrison, Middle School/Teen Center director*)

### Boy Scouts clean up

Members of Scout Troop 49 headed into the forest near Old Argonner Kaserne Nov. 21 to beautify the area. Dylan Baker, Marcus Bomberger, Dejon Mays, Jason Ruzicka, Aaron and Tony Parker collected trash and debris. The Scouts are looking forward to a full schedule of camping and hiking trips, a Christmas party, a Klondike Derby in Switzerland, hiking in Bastogne and more. The troop meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 a.m. in the Scout Hut on Pioneer Kaserne (near Building 40). Call Alan Ruzicka at civ (06181) 939 8523, Julio Gonzales at civ (06184) 901 879 or Barbara Bomberger at civ (0160) 9623 0113 for details.

### WIC-Overseas In Büdingen

The Women, Infants and Children Program now has an office in Büdingen. It's open Tuesdays in the same building as Army Community Service on Armstrong Barracks — Building 2207. WIC-O provides supplemental foods and nutrition

education. Families must be income eligible. Call mil 321-4251 or civ (06042) 80-251 on Tuesdays or call the Hanau office at civ (06181) 88-9636 with questions or to schedule an appointment.

### Red Cross classes

Hanau American Red Cross offers **Professional CPR** Jan. 13 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and **CPR Instructor Training** Jan. 18-21 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a CPR instructor may take this class, which allows participants to instruct CPR classes including Professional CPR. To become an instructor, candidates must be currently certified in Professional CPR. Call Sharon Guerrero at mil 322-1760/8205 or civ (06181) 88-1760/8205 for more information.

### JFK Christmas Dinner

The JFK Dining Facility on Fliegerhorst Kaserne will hold its annual Christmas Dinner Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The entire community is invited to attend.

### Protestant services

A **Christmas Eve Service** will be held Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. at Fliegerhorst Chapel. Call Chaplain Trotter at mil 322-7525 or civ (06181) 88-7525. Pioneer Chapel holds a **New Year's Eve Watch Night Service** Dec. 31 at 10:30 p.m.

### Catholic services

Fliegerhorst Chapel will host the following Catholic services throughout the holiday season: Dec. 24 at 3 p.m. **Children's Christmas Eve Mass**, Dec. 24 at 11:30 p.m. **Christmas Caroling**, Dec. 24 at midnight **Christmas Midnight Mass**, Dec. 25 at 12:45 p.m. **Christ-**



Photo by Midori VanBrunt

### Saying goodbye to Apache unit

Lt. Col. Robert C. Doerer, 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven J. Remily case the Flying Dragon colors Dec. 9 at Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The Apache battalion is headed to Fort Hood, Texas, where it will undergo training and equipment upgrade to the AH-64D Apache Longbow.

mas Bilingual Mass.

mil 322-8725, civ (06181) 88-8725.

### Credit union hours

Andrews Federal Credit Union will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. It will have reduced hours Dec. 31 when it will only be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Hanau USO seeks help

Hanau USO seeks a part-time information and referral specialist. Stop by at the USO Lounge on Pioneer Kaserne, Building 9, or call

### Ethics training

A mandatory ethics training class will be held Dec. 28 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Evening Star Theater on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. The training must be taken before the end of the calendar year. Large groups are asked to sign up at the Hanau Legal Center. Call Mrs. Vasquez at mil 322-8468 or civ (06181)

88-8468 for more information.

### AFAP meetings

AFAP committee meetings will be held Jan. 5 at 11 a.m. and Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. at Hanau Army Community Service, Building 9, on Pioneer Kaserne. Call Amy Cuebas at mil 322-8766 or civ (06181) 88-8766 for information.

### ACS job search training

Army Community Service offers an **employment orientation** every Tuesday. Classes are 10-11:30 a.m. in Building 9, Room 104 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. The orientation will also be offered in Büdingen's Armstrong Barracks, Building 2207 on Jan. 20 from 11 a.m. to noon. Learn how to create a resume at ACS at a **resume workshop** Jan. 19. Attend an **interview techniques workshop** Jan. 13. Or learn how to **dress for success** Jan. 12. All classes in Hanau are held from 10-11:30 a.m. at Pioneer Kaserne, Building 9. Call mil 322-9191 or civ (06181) 88-9191. ACS has 13 computers available for you to create your resume and search the Internet for vacancies. All computers are equipped with Internet access, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Visit ACS on Pioneer Kaserne, Building 9, Room 204 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Sandefur

### German-American law enforcers

Lt. Col. Howard Malone, 104th Area Support Group provost marshal, discusses joint police operations with Fred Bauer (left), chief of the regional criminal inspectors, and Dirk Engelhardt, director of the Mainz-Kinzig Police Department, during a German-American police luncheon Dec. 3 at Hanau's Schloss Philippsruhe. The quarterly event includes German and American police, Army officials and border patrol members.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lee Harshman

## Bridging the waters in Iraq

Soldiers with the 502nd Engineer Company out of Hanau remove a section of an assault float-bridge from the Euphrates River near Al Qaim, Iraq, Dec. 2. Al Qaim is near the Syrian border. Photo left: Staff Sgt. Roberto Ordonez, 502nd Engineer Company, removes a cable attached to a section of the floating bridge.

## Community notes . . . Community notes

### Santa suits for rent

The Hanau American Red Cross has Santa suits for rent this holiday season. The cost is \$35 a day, and rental includes use of the Santa coat and pants, gloves, hat, beard and wig. For reservations call the Red Cross at mil 322-1760/8205 or civ (06181) 88-1760/8205.

### Troops Encounter Christ

A Troops Encounter Christ weekend retreat will be held Jan. 7-9 at the Schonstatt retreat house in Vallendar (near Koblenz). Designed primarily for members of the Catholic community, although members of other faiths are welcome, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about their relationship with Christ and their church. Cost is

€30. The first 20 people to sign up attend for free. Call Gerri Merkel at mil 323-3224, civ (06181) 180-3224 or email [gerri.merkel@104asg.army.mil](mailto:gerri.merkel@104asg.army.mil) for more information and a registration form.

### Baby swap shops

Do you have any baby clothes you would like to swap for new ones? Visit the Büdingen or Wolfgang Outreach Center swap shops weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to see the latest in baby clothes. Donations are accepted on a case-by-case basis. Swap shops are at the Büdingen Army Community Service Family Outreach Center on Armstrong Barracks, Building 2207 and at the Wolfgang Outreach Center at the Wolfgang Shopping Center, Building 514. Call Keylah

Bonebrake, Büdingen ACS manager, at mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80-786 for details.

### Bowling League

Join the 414th Base Support Battalion Bowling League Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Hessen Bowl at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The league will bowl for 12 weeks through February 2005. Bowlers and non-bowlers are welcome. Call Mrs. Tucker at mil 322-8673 or civ (06181) 88-8673.

### Flu shots

The Hanau Health Clinic has influenza vaccine for active duty personnel, retirees and their family members as well as for high risk patients. High-risk patients are children age six to 23 months, adults age 65 and older, all pregnant women, people with underlying medical conditions, out-of-home caregivers of infants younger than six months and people with serious allergies. Parents of children under age 7 are asked to schedule an appointment with a physician before vaccination. Deploying Soldiers receive the vaccine at their predeployment briefing. The Hanau Health Clinic provides flu vaccinations at its Immunization Clinic Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 7:30-11 a.m.

and Thursday from 1-4 p.m. Call mil 328-6658 or civ (06181) 500-6658.

### Kid's Korner activities

A Kid's Korner Teen Party has been scheduled for Dec. 31. The Kid's Korner is open Wednesday to Friday from 3-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call mil 322-9013 or civ (06181) 88-9013. Kid's Korner hosts an "It's OK to be a Kid Night" for adults only on Jan. 7 from 8:30 p.m. to midnight.

### USO highlights

Rhein Main Area USOs in Wiesbaden, Hanau, at Rhein-Main Air Base and the Frankfurt Airport feature the following upcoming tours and events: Rome (Florence and Pisa) Dec. 22-28, Paris Dec. 29 to Jan. 1, Frankfurt by Train Jan. 8, Luxembourg City Jan. 15, Prague Jan. 15-17. Stop by the Hanau USO (Building 9, Pioneer Kaserne) for more information.

### ACS classes and programs

Sponsorship Training is offered every first and third Friday of the month from 10-11 a.m. and a class called Ready, Get Set, Move is held every fourth Tuesday from 9-11:30 a.m. All classes are held at the Army Community Service Conference

Room, Building 9, on Pioneer Kaserne. A Kaserne Kruise drive-around orientation to the Hanau area installations and services is offered every second Tuesday. For more information call ACS at mil 322-8965/8963 or civ (06181) 88-8965/8963.

### Sunday Football at playhouse

Watch NFL games projected on a colossal sized screen, enjoy company, food and drinks every Sunday at the Five Pfennig Playhouse in Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne in Hanau. Call mil 322-8031 or civ (06181) 88-8031 for information.

### Büdingen Family Outreach Center activities

Mondays—**Coupon Social** with snacks at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays—**Hearts United Group** at 10 a.m.; Wednesdays—**Play Day with Mommies** at 11 a.m.; Thursdays—**Kids Craft Corner** at 1 p.m. The Büdingen Family Outreach Center is in Building 2207 on Armstrong Barracks. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80-786 for more information.





# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photo by Pennie Allen

Gelnhausen Elementary School students in grades kindergarten through five perform a holiday concert for parents and staff Dec. 14.

## Ho, Ho, Ho

Soldiers, civilians and family members turned out in force for a host of holiday events throughout the communities of the 414th Base Support Battalion.

Choirs performed, trees were lit, Santa stopped by to check who has been naughty or nice this year, and people joined together to celebrate the season.

Happy holidays everyone.



Santa hands out goodies at the Büdingen tree lighting on Armstrong Barracks Dec. 3.



Col. Dyfied Harris (at podium), 4th Brigade commander, and members of the brigade sing carols during the Fliegerhorst tree lighting Dec. 13.



Photos (5) by Midori VanBrunt

Busta Elthage, age 4, enjoys a miniature train ride after the tree lighting ceremony at Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne Dec. 10. Photo left: Cub Scouts and community members sing at the Hutier tree lighting Nov. 30. Photo far left: Shantay Foxter, age 4, talks with Santa Claus about her Christmas wishes at the Pioneer tree lighting.



## Donation to benefit child center

### Hamburg German-American club supports Hanau families

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Tis the season to give, and people are helping others in all kinds of ways.

From Toys for Tots to Angel Trees, Holiday Assistance Programs to 1st Armored Division Association of the Army commissary gift certificates, individuals and groups are turning out in force to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

A project organized by the Hamburg German-American Women's Club will benefit the Hanau military community for years to come. Members of the club conducted a fund-raising project in Hamburg which raised €2007 — money which will be used to obtain needed supplies and equipment to be used by the Fliegerhorst Child Development Center to become re-accredited next year.

"The reason we did this is because we care about Soldiers and their families," said Monika Stoy, president of the Hamburg German-American Women's Club and a former U.S. Army officer. "This is our way of showing that we care and are praying for our Soldiers — regardless of their nationalities — who are deployed to places such as Iraq and Afghanistan."

During a presentation Dec. 13 of the money raised through various activities including briefings by international offi-



Photo by Karl Weisel

**Paul Matthews, 104th ASG director of community activities, thanks Monika Stoy for her club's donation as Lt. Col. Timothy Stoy and Celia Kandler, 104th ASG Child and Youth Services chief, look on.**

ers of the German Armed Forces Staff College and other events, Stoy explained to Paul Matthews, 104th Area Support Group director of community activities, that while the Hamburg friendship club only has a few American members and is located far from the nearest U.S. military installation, it has been active in educating the local population about different cultures and the United States' role in the Global

War on Terrorism. "I held a yellow ribbon campaign here to inform people of the sacrifices our Soldiers are making in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world," said Stoy. "I am especially concerned that the Germans are losing perspective on the importance of German-American relations in today's heated political climate."

Monika's husband, Lt. Col. Timothy Stoy, a U.S. Army exchange instructor at the German Armed Forces Staff College, added that today's young German army officers have much less contact with their American counterparts than in the past. "The current crop of German officers hasn't had as many chances to interact with the U.S. military," he said, explaining that was another motivation behind the project. Besides raising money for a worthy cause, the project drew officers of many different nationalities at the college together to share knowledge about their countries and to learn more about the United States.

While in Hanau to hand over the money for Fliegerhorst CDC, Monika explained that another of her projects is to expand the educational opportunities of young children in the Normandy and Colmar areas of France — places that were touched by the Allied war effort during World War II. Her project aims to gather English-language children's books to be shared with young French readers. The 104th ASG's Matthews said he would discuss the project with his staff, and the club president asked anyone who would like to donate books to the project to contact her at [timmoni15@yahoo.com](mailto:timmoni15@yahoo.com) or to send books to Monika Stoy, 950th TC, Unit 22419 GAFSC, APO AE 09069.